

"HOME DRESSMAKING" FREE.

VALUABLE 32-PAGE BOOK GIVEN FREE TO OUR READERS.

An Expert Dressmaker Tells How to Make Over and Re-color Old Dresses, Wraps, and Other Clothing in the Latest Styles to Look Like New—Practical Instructions That Will Save Money in Any Home.

It is astonishing how little money and work are required to make fashionable, up-to-date gowns and wraps from last year's cast-off clothing, if one only knows how. "Home Dressmaking," a 32-page book, written by an expert dressmaker, that gives pictures of fashionable dresses, wraps, and coats for women and children, and tells just how they can be made from old garments that are faded, unfashionable in color, or out of style.

COUPON. I have made special arrangements with the publishers to give the book free to any of its readers upon receipt of a 2-cent stamp to Wells, Richardson & Co., Burlington, N. H. The edition is limited, and any one who wants the book should send at once.

PROSPEROUS GATE CITY.

The Town Has Greatly Improved—Affairs in Scott County.

GATE CITY, VA., April 1.—(Special.)—This town has never had a "boom," in the ordinary meaning of the term, yet its real estate has borne a good price, which, instead of declining, has steadily increased. It is safe to say that no other town of its size in Virginia has shown such substantial growth and improvement as Gate City has within the past ten or fifteen years. At the close of the war it was only a small, dismantled village, with no business houses except old, dilapidated structures that would scarcely be used now for barber-shops or butcher-stalls. The dwellings, with the exception of three or four "fine old places," were in keeping with the business houses. Now the town has a large number of fine business houses, built in modern style, while the old dwellings have not only been replaced by handsome new buildings, but the commons on which cattle formerly grazed, have become dotted with splendid residences and large lots of beautiful yards and gardens. Two fine business blocks, containing six immense ground-floor storehouses, are nearing completion, all of which will be taken as soon as finished. The courthouse at Gate City is new, and the old log school-house, which was so long a disservice to the town and county, has been superseded by Shoemaker College, the first session of which has an enrollment of over two hundred students.

The progress of improvement has been no less rapid and steady in the country than in the town. On every hand elegant new residences greet the eye of the traveler. Intelligent and progressive methods of farming are rapidly supplanting the old-fashioned methods. The crops are cultivated and harvested by machinery, and fine, blooded cattle have taken the place of the scrub stock of former times. Handsome, modern school-houses have been erected in almost every community, and many fine church houses have recently "reared their spires toward heaven." Altogether, the progress of our hitherto obscure county, within the past few years has been highly gratifying, and its outlook at present is indeed bright.

Since the trouble with Spain arose the Dispatch has been more eagerly read here than ever before, notwithstanding its long-established popularity. The people have learned to come in to it and peruse its contents with interest and have given public opinion in this and neighboring counties than has the Dispatch. It is rapidly killing the power of "yellow journalism."

Heavy rains visited this section in the early part of the week, and the streams are very much swollen. The long-wished-for tide has made the log- and lumbermen happy.

The froze a few years ago killed nearly all the peach-trees in this section. Other trees were planted, and the crops are large enough to bear. The fine peach bloom this spring indicates that, if not killed, there will be a considerable crop of the luscious fruit this year.

Mr. Joseph E. Tate, a prominent citizen, living six miles from town, was bitten on the hand by a rabid dog a few days since, and his friends are quite uneasy about him.

ERNEST GILL INJURED.

Picked up in an Unconscious Condition—Unable to Explain.

ROANOKE, VA., April 1.—(Special.)—A few days ago Ernest Gill, a young man residing on Second avenue, northwest, was paid off by the Norfolk and Western Railway Company, for whom he worked, and he came down town, ostensibly to pay his bills. For several days he was not heard of, and his family began to search for him. After two days he was taken home, minus all his money, and in a semi-conscious condition, and has remained so ever since. It was learned today that Mr. Gill was picked up near the market-house and carried to Dr. Cannaday's office, where he remained unconscious and unresponsive for some time. The persons who carried him to the doctor's office are as yet unknown, and there is a strong presumption that Mr. Gill was drugged and robbed. His present condition is of such a nature that it is impossible to give any information as to the cause which led to his present trouble. Mr. Gill was injured on the Norfolk and Western about a year ago, and for several weeks hovered between life and death. Special Officer R. M. Board has been promoted to a regular place on the police force of this city by Mayor Andrews.

BANK CASHIER DROWNED.

Indications Point to Suicide, But There Are Other Theories.

SAVANNAH, GA., April 1.—A special from Brunswick, Ga., to the Morning News says: Cashier Louis Fleming, of the Brunswick Savings and Trust Company, was drowned yesterday. Indications point to suicide, but several theories are advanced. The bank officials announce that his cash and book accounts are straight, except for an error in addition of \$300 on his discount book.

Bank-Examiner Speer reached Brunswick yesterday. He checked up Mr. Fleming's books and found the error in the error of \$300. Fleming's attention was called to the error. He put on his hat and said he would be back shortly. Two hours afterward his body was found floating in the river. A run commenced on the bank. All demands were promptly met, and the bank remained open fifteen minutes after banking hours to pay depositors.

It is believed that yesterday when Examiner Speer spoke of the small error, Mr. Fleming became temporarily unbalanced. He had been working unusually hard, day and night, for months, and his high-strung, sensitive nature is believed to have given way. He is believed to have misunderstood the examiner and taken the remark as a reflection upon his account.

A USEFUL MAN GONE.

COLONEL JAMES KERR EDMONDSON DIES IN LEXINGTON.

HE WAS A MOST VALUABLE CITIZEN.

Prominent in the Confederate Service and at the Virginia Bar—Faithful and Capable in Every Walk of Life.

LEXINGTON, VA., April 1.—(Special.)—Colonel James Kerr Edmondson died at his residence here last night. He was 66 years of age and had been ill with Bright's disease for a period of fourteen months. His condition of late had been slightly improved, so much so, in fact, that it was thought he would soon be out of the house. Thursday morning he appeared to be asleep, and no effort was made by the family to awake him until after breakfast, when their efforts to arouse him were without avail. He was insensible, and medical aid was summoned and all the family assembled. He remained in a comatose condition until the end. The entire community was greatly shocked when it was reported that his death was momentarily expected, and great sympathy was expressed on all sides, for he was a man admired and loved by all with whom he came in contact. He was absolutely without fear, and in all his dealings honorable and upright.

SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.

James K. Edmondson was born on North river, a quarter of a mile south of Buena Vista. His father was James



JUDGE J. K. EDMONDSON.

Edmondson. He received his education at Washington College, now Washington and Lee University, and in 1853 entered the County Clerk's office of Rockbridge, where he served as a deputy for County-Clerk Charles Chapin until 1860. He was then for one year Town Sergeant and Clerk. In 1861 he entered the Confederate service as a Lieutenant of the Rockbridge Rifles, and for distinguished bravery was successively made captain and major, and recommended for still higher military honors by General Jackson. He was noted for his bravery in many battles, and took part in all the engagements in which the celebrated Stonewall Brigade participated, and as colonel he commanded the celebrated Twenty-seventh Virginia Regiment at the battle of Chancellorsville. In that battle he was severely wounded and was forced to retire from the field. He returned to Lexington and assumed command of the military post here.

CLERK AND JUDGE.

In the fall of 1863, on the death of Clerk Chapin, he was appointed to fill the vacancy, and he served in that position until removed by the military power in 1865. In 1869 he studied law at the Washington and Lee University, and in 1870 was elected County Judge of Rockbridge county for a term of five years, and re-elected for a term of six years. He declined another election. He then devoted himself to the practice of law, and enjoyed a large, confidential, and lucrative practice until the time of his death. He was until recently one of the ablest and most successful lawyers in the county, and held the honored position of receiver of the Circuit Court for a period of twelve years, which position he resigned March 4th on account of his ill-health. He administered this position with rare ability, and handled over \$200,000 of money, while not one cent was lost through injudicious investment of the funds. To his successor he turned over securities amounting to \$76,617. He was county chairman of the Democratic party for a number of years, and worked his forces with the adroitness of a skilled soldier and commander. It was under his management that the county threw off the Mahone yoke and polled one of the largest votes in its history when General Francis Lee was elected Governor of Virginia. In 1883 he was sent to the Virginia Legislature, and was a member of the Finance Committee. He made a great impression on his associates as a leader. He was administrator and trustee of many estates, and up to the time of his death was assignee of the Bank of Lexington, which was wrecked. By his skill the depositors were paid a dividend of 61-3-4 per cent. of their deposits in that institution.

OTHER PUBLIC DUTIES.

He was at one time a member of the Board of Visitors of the Western State

The Kidneys

are the seat or the starting point of many maladies, all of them serious, all more or less painful, and all of them tending, unless cured, to a fatal end. No organs of the body are more delicate or more sensitive than the kidneys. When symptoms of disease appear in them not a moment is to be lost if health is to be restored. The best way to treat the kidneys is through the blood, cleansing it from the poisonous matter which is usually at the bottom of kidney complaints. For this purpose there is no remedy equal to

Ayer's Sarsaparilla

"For many years I have been a constant sufferer from kidney trouble, and have tried a number of largely advertised kidney cures without benefit. At last a friend advised me to try Ayer's Sarsaparilla. The use of eight bottles of this remedy entirely cured my malady."—MARY MILLER, 1233 Hancock Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

DOING GOOD EVERYWHERE.

A Medical Discovery That Effectually Cures Piles in Every Form.

For many years physicians have experimented in vain, seeking a remedy which would effectually cure piles and other rectal troubles, without resorting to a surgical operation. Many remedies were found to give temporary relief, but none could be depended upon to make a lasting, satisfactory cure.

Within a recent period, however, a new remedy, the Pyramid Pile Cure, has been repeatedly tested in hundreds of cases and with highly satisfactory results. The first effect of the Pyramid Pile Cure is to instantly remove the pain and irritation generally present, and from that time on the cure rapidly progresses, and before the patient is hardly aware of it he is entirely cured. The remedy seems to act directly on the nerves and blood vessels of the parts affected as it comes into direct contact with them and sets up a healthy action, which, in a perfectly natural way, brings the parts to their normal condition.

The remedy does no work without any pain or inconvenience to the sufferer, and is justly considered one of the most meritorious discoveries of modern medicine. Piles is one of the most annoying and often times dangerous diseases with which humanity is afflicted. If neglected it frequently develops into fistula, or equally fatal and irremediable trouble, where as, by the timely use of this simple, but effective, remedy no one need suffer a single day from any form of piles unless they want to.

The Pyramid Pile Cure is perfectly harmless, containing no mineral poisons, and is also very reasonable in price, costing but 50 cents a package. It is sold in drug stores everywhere. The manufacturers of the remedy are the Pyramid Drug Company, of Marshall, Mich., who have placed this excellent preparation before the public only after giving it thorough and repeated tests in the hands of reputable physicians. The results in hundreds of cases have convinced us that it will not disappoint you.

Hospital for the Insane at Staunton. He had been a member of the Board of Trustees of Washington and Lee University since 1870, and was at the time of his death a member of the Board of Visitors of the University. He was chairman of the Jackson Memorial fund, and through his untiring efforts the heroic bronze statue which stands as a memorial to Stonewall Jackson was erected. There was no man in Rockbridge whose record was better known than his. He was an uncompromising Democrat in politics and an active worker.

He married a Miss Taylor, who survives him. They were not blessed with children, but had two daughters, Misses Monroe, both of whom are married. The younger one, Mrs. Paul Perick, resided with him. Judge Edmondson was a first cousin of Frank T. Glasgow, Esq., of Richmond.

Colonel Edmondson's funeral takes place to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock from the Presbyterian church.

TO REORGANIZE THE POLICE.

Changes in Petersburg's Force—Political and Matrimonial News.

PETERSBURG, VA., April 1.—(Special.)—At the final meeting last night of the committee of the Common Council to whom was delegated the authority to consider and report a plan for the reorganization of the Police Department, it was agreed to report to the Council a plan radically different from that in vogue for many years past. If the new plan should be adopted it will materially affect the standing of many of the members of the present corps, who have proved themselves good and efficient officers. That the officers and privates of the corps shall be twenty-two, instead of twenty-six, in number; that the limit of age shall be 45 years; height not less than 5 feet 6 inches; weight, 140 pounds; and physical condition such that all candidates be able to read and write and to be men of good character; a patrol wagon to be provided and a sanitary inspector to be appointed from the members of the corps. The plan provides for the appointment of a chief of police, commissioners, with authority to examine as to qualifications and recommend candidates to the Common Council. This commission is to be composed jointly of members of the Council and citizens. The present plan requires a council appointment of an equal number of police officers from each ward; the new plan does away with this.

OF POLITICAL INTEREST.

A meeting of the Democratic District Committee of the Fourth District will be held at the Shipley Hotel, in this city, to-morrow to consider the question of calling a convention to nominate a candidate for Congress from this district. The members of the committee are Major F. R. Lassiter, chairman; Thomas N. Williams, of Mecklenburg; Sidney P. Epps, of Nottoway; Alexander G. Saxe, of Sussex; and George J. Hundley, of Amelia. It is not probable that Mr. S. P. Epps will have opposition before the convention.

Mr. Robert Gilliam, Clerk of the courts, has been busy to-day issuing subpoenas to Confederate soldiers, whom there are about twenty in this city.

Cards of invitation are out to the marriage of Miss Emma Robinson Boisseau and Mr. Abram Bruner, at Crewe, on the 12th of April.

During the month of April sixty-five arrests for all causes were made by the police of this city.

The commissioners appointed by the County Court of Dinwiddie to appraise the value of lands wanted for the use of the Richmond, Petersburg and Carolina railroad, have appraised the land of Mr. J. C. Smith, of which about sixteen acres are needed, at \$2,700.

The tobacco market here has been considerably affected by the rumors of war, and planters are disposed to hold back their crops.

On account of to-day's news from Washington relative to the war crisis, feeling here has been quite excited. Our military companies are ready for any emergency.

LIVERY STABLE BURNED.

A Worthy Fredericksburg Negro Sustains Heavy Losses by Fire.

FREDERICKSBURG, VA., April 1.—(Special.)—David Ennis (colored), proprietor of a livery stable here, had his property burned this morning about 1 o'clock. He lost five head of horses and several carriages, and was only partially insured. The loss is a heavy one to him. He is a most worthy man, and our people generally are disposed to help him in his trouble.

The war rumors that are received here hourly keep our people in a continual state of excitement. The bulletin boards are surrounded by an eager crowd, who are loud in their expressions of what they think is criminal delay.

The few country people that come to town report that the war is worse than they ever saw them before.

There has been a marked improvement in the wheat and grass crops hereabouts in the last few days.

PREPARING THE NAVAL RESERVES.

Governor Russell, of North Carolina, is recruiting the divisions.

RALEIGH, N. C., April 1.—(Special.)—In compliance with a request from the Navy Department to prepare the Naval Reserve, a sudden call for service by the President, Governor Russell ordered Commander Morton to recruit each division to its maximum strength (sixty-four), and to inspect all vessels and ascertain those which can be made available as a mosquito fleet.

Temple, Pemberton, Cordes & Company, 7 and 9 West Broad St.

Medium-Weight Underwear.

Our stock of Ladies', Gentlemen's, and Children's Medium-Weight Underwear, especially adapted to the present season's wants, is worth your attention.

INFANTS.

Light-Weight Ribbed Merino Wool Vests, in both long and short sleeves, 50, 60, and 65c.

CHILDREN'S.

Light-Weight Merino Vests, Pants, and Drawers, 50, 60, 65, and 75c.

LADIES'.

Gossamer-Weight Merino Vests and Pants, \$1.

Ladies' Gauze Wool Vests and Pants, \$1.25.

Ladies' All-Wool Gauze Vests and Pants, \$2.

GENTLEMEN'S.

Gossamer-Weight Shirts and Drawers, \$1.

Gentlemen's Merino Shirts and Drawers, White and Natural, \$1.

We are agents for Dr. Jaeger's Sanitary Woolen Underwear, and carry the full line of Ladies', Gentlemen's, and Children's, in all weights and sizes.

THE WEATHER IN MARCH.

Warmer Than for the Same Month in Many Years.

The following is the weather report for March, the readings of the thermometer having been taken a few miles from the city with a government instrument:

CONDITIONS.	7 A. M.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Wind.
1.—Clear (1).....	26	25	49 N.	
2.—Cloudy (1).....	38	37	51 N.E.	
3.—Clear (1).....	30	30	48 N.E.	
4.—Cloudy (3).....	33	32	49 N.E.	
5.—Clear (1).....	31	31	49 N.E.	
6.—Cloudy (1).....	31	31	49 N.E.	
7.—Partly cloudy (3).....	30	29	51 N.E.	
8.—Clear (1).....	33	33	52 N.E.	
9.—Cloudy (1).....	33	33	50 N.W.	
10.—Cloudy (3).....	43	42	51 N.E.	
11.—Clear (1).....	53	52	74 S.	
12.—Partly cloudy (8).....	55	47	74 S.	
13.—Partly cloudy (2).....	62	57	73 S.	
14.—Clear (1).....	65	58	74 S.	
15.—Clear (1).....	65	58	74 S.	
16.—Cloudy (1).....	49	46	56 S.	
17.—Cloudy (10).....	52	42	74 S.	
18.—Clear (1).....	53	50	77 S.	
19.—Partly cloudy (7).....	60	49	82 S.	
20.—Partly cloudy (7).....	67	49	81 W.	
21.—Clear (1).....	63	50	77 S.	
22.—Cloudy (1).....	43	43	65 E.	
23.—Partly cloudy (2).....	62	50	81 W.	
24.—Clear (1).....	63	50	81 W.	
25.—Cloudy (1).....	43	43	55 N.E.	
26.—Clearing (12).....	39	32	56 W.	
27.—Clear (1).....	50	50	77 S.	
28.—Cloudy (13).....	50	50	77 S.	
29.—Cloudy (14).....	57	55	73 W.	
30.—Cloudy (15).....	42	42	52 N.W.	
31.—Cloudy (1).....	41	41	54 S.	

Averages..... 44.3 41.0 53.4 61.0

Normal..... 48.0 41.0 51.0 61.0

Amount of rain, 3.43 inches.

1. Heavy frost.
2. Rain 9 A. M., changing to hail and snow; snow-storm 9:30 to 10:30, followed by rain.
3. Snow during night; rain in the morning, changing to hail and snow; rain, hail, and snow all day.
4. Heavy fog.
5. Light rain at intervals in the evening.
6. Heavy fog. Wild geese passed.
7. Light shower 2:30 P. M.
8. Rain.
9. Thunder.
10. Rain all day; thunder and lightning in the evening.
11. Rain all day; ice.
12. Rain early in the morning.
13. Rain; light in forenoon; heavier in afternoon; storm in evening; rain till 7 P. M.
14. Light rain at intervals in the afternoon; heavier in evening.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

In the table below will be found the mean temperature and the amount of rainfall during the corresponding months for the past nineteen years, the rainfall being measured at 7 o'clock each morning:

	Mean Rain-Temperature.	inches.
1879.....	46.7	2.32
1880.....	48.0	2.58
1881.....	45.2	2.74
1882.....	48.2	3.18
1883.....	45.2	2.58
1884.....	47.5	2.53
1885.....	47.5	2.53
1886.....	47.5	2.53
1887.....	47.5	2.53
1888.....	47.5	2.53
1889.....	47.5	2.53
1890.....	47.5	2.53
1891.....	47.5	2.53
1892.....	47.5	2.53
1893.....	47.5	2.53
1894.....	47.5	2.53
1895.....	47.5	2.53
1896.....	47.5	2.53
1897.....	47.5	2.53
1898.....	47.5	2.53

The warmest March in nineteen years.

The rainfall is about the average, but much greater than that of February.

At the Soldiers' Home.

Rev. Dr. Nelson, of Immanuel Baptist church, conducted the services in the chapel at the Soldiers' Home yesterday for the Central Woman's Christian Temperance Union, and preached a fine sermon from Matthew XI, 28: "Take My yoke upon you." The hospital was visited and literature distributed. The veterans are conducting a Monday prayer-meeting, and earnestly request Christian workers of the city to assist. Dr. J. William Jones will conduct the noonday service to-day.

Mr. Wray T. Knight III, the newly-appointed postmaster of this city, is ill at his residence, on the corner of Ninth and Franklin streets. His condition precludes all possibility of his taking charge of the post-office, at least for several days.

A Bailiff Appointed.

United-States-Marshal Morgan Treat has appointed S. C. Scott (colored), of Henrico county, bailiff of the United States District Court, in Richmond.

The Local Historians.

The Jefferson Dramatic Club has established headquarters in Room No. 7 of the Ebel building. There was a reading rehearsal there last night, and the organization decided to embark on some settled work in the near future.

NEWPORT NEWS-BUSINESS MOVEMENTS OF OUR FORMIDABLE BATTLESHIPS IN THE ROADS. PUTTING EVERYTHING IN READINESS.

Commodore Schley Receives a Cipher Message, But Its Contents Are Unknown—Preparations at Fort Monroe—Caulkers Resume Work.

NEWPORT NEWS, VA., April 1.—(Special.)—Commodore Winfield Scott Schley, commanding the Hampton Roads, or flying squadron, received a cipher dispatch from Washington this afternoon, asking how soon he will be ready to take his ships to sea.

The dispatch stated, further, that it is imperative that an immediate answer be forwarded to the Navy Department.

It is learned from a trustworthy source that Commodore Schley sent an immediate reply, but its contents, or even some idea of their nature, cannot be learned. It is believed, however, that the Commander replied that he could place his vessels in readiness for action by to-morrow, but would prefer to await the arrival of the cruiser Massachusetts before putting to sea.

CLEANING THE MASSACHUSETTS.

The work of cleaning and scraping the bottom of the battleship Massachusetts is being carried on very hurriedly to-day. The news that war is inevitable has made the officers of the big fighter somewhat anxious about the future of their ship. One of the officers informed me this morning that the work of cleaning the ship's hull would require at least ten days by the present method. The work is not done necessarily by the ship, as it is impossible to make rapid progress. If war is declared next Monday or Tuesday it is possible that sufficient of the sea growth will have been removed from the forward side of the Massachusetts to enable her to take her place with the rest of the flying squadron. Of course, she will go into action when it is necessary, but unless her hull is pretty well cleaned she will not be able to make the required speed.

A force of ship-yard employees is busy on the flagship Brooklyn to-day repairing the turrets and fittings to the rapid-fire guns. While the damage to these parts is not serious at all, Commodore Schley is determined to take his ship into action when ordered without the slightest flaw. The ship-yard experts who are doing the work have been ordered to rush it to completion by to-night.

THE BROOKLYN HARDLY READY.

An officer from the Massachusetts stated this morning that the Brooklyn is hardly ready to leave this port, and he believes the story that she will weigh anchor to-night and join the Columbia to be without foundation.

Captain Higginson, of the Massachusetts, denied to-day the published story that nineteen of his marines had been locked up some time yesterday for intoxication. Such a story, he said, being, as it is, without foundation, is not calculated to reflect credit upon a naval officer. It is true, he said, that a great deal of whiskey had been sold to seamen and marines from the pleasure pier and carried by them aboard the ship, but no member of the crew has been locked up for drunkenness.

Yesterday was pay-day aboard the Massachusetts, and only a small number of seamen and marines were allowed ashore.

BUILDING THE SEAMEN DOWN.

The police have been busy all day arresting seamen and marines from the battleship Massachusetts, who remained ashore for a longer period than their liberty permitted.

When the local messes of sailors and marines were given liberty last night, they were made to understand that they must be back on the ship at 9 o'clock this morning. When the hour of 9 rolled around, and there were still absent thirty-nine sailors, Captain Higginson issued instructions to the Police Department to arrest any of the men found ashore who belonged to the battleship.

Accompanying this order was a reward of \$10 per man for each and every seaman delivered to the officers of the ship, making a total of \$390, that the commander was willing to pay for the detention of his crew.

Not a little significance attaches to this order. It is not likely that Captain Higginson would offer \$390 for runaway seamen unless there were some important orders in the wind.

Before noon to-day the police had arrested twenty of the thirty